

STRATEGIC GRANT PRIORITIES
QUICK GUIDE

**National Science Foundation
(NSF) CAREER Award**

ABOUT THE NSF CAREER AWARD

The Faculty Early Career Development ([CAREER](#)) Program is a foundation-wide activity that offers the NSF's most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. Activities pursued by early-career faculty should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CAREER AWARD

The CAREER program focuses on developing new faculty.

Its goals include:

- Creating a stable funding opportunity for early-career researchers.
- Developing outstanding educator-scholars in the context of their institution.
- Building a foundation for a lifetime of integrated contributions to research and education.
- Increasing the participation of traditionally underrepresented groups in STEM.

ELIGIBILITY

The CAREER award is for tenure-track faculty who hold a PhD and are engaged in research in an area supported by the NSF. Faculty must be untenured assistant professors (as of the submission deadline) with at least a 50% tenure-track position. There are no citizenship restrictions. No co-Principal Investigators (PIs) are allowed. Researchers can only be awarded one CAREER award in their lifetime and are limited to three submissions.

AWARD INFORMATION

- The NSF CAREER Award is for a five-year duration.
- The deadline for submitting a CAREER proposal is the fourth Wednesday in July.
- \$400,000 minimum budget (including indirect costs), except for Office of Polar Programs, biological sciences and engineering directorates, which have a minimum of \$500,000. There is no maximum award size, so it is best to review previously awarded proposals within your directorate for guidance.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF CAREER

In addition to the research plan and broader impacts, applicants are required to submit an education plan that outlines their proposed activities and strategies for integrating their research and teaching efforts. A successful education plan will 1) demonstrate integration between the research project research and educational activities; 2) have clear educational goals and objectives; 3) be informed by evidence; and 4) include a plan for evaluating the success of the education plan activities.

WHAT SUPPORT EXISTS ON CAMPUS FOR ME IF I WANT TO APPLY FOR A CAREER AWARD?

The Division of Research, Innovation & Impact Professional Development team provides the MU NSF CAREER Club, an annual program to support faculty in the preparation of CAREER proposals. You can find more information [here](#). The program includes support for:

- Cohort-based professional development.
- Proposal strategy consultations.
- Broader Impacts and Education Plan support from ideation to partnership building.
- Proposal review, editing and illustration.